Sr.No.	State/UT	Name of company	Gateway location
39.	Tamilnadu	Dishnet DSL Ltd.	Chennai
40.	Tamilnadu	Primus Telecommunication India Ltd.	Chennai
41.	Tamilnadu	Sify Limited	Chennai
42.	Tamilnadu	Sify Limited	Chennai
43.	Tamilnadu	Trak Online Net India Pvt. Ltd.	Chennai
44.	Uttar Pradesh	HCL Comnet Systems and Services Ltd.	Noida
45.	Uttar Pradesh	Phoenix Overseas Ltd.	Noida
46.	Uttar Pradesh	Sify Limited	Lucknow
47.	West Bengal	VSNL	Kolkata
48.	West Bengal	Bharti BT Internet Ltd.	Kolkata
49.	West Bengal	HCL Comnet Systems and Services Ltd.	Kharagpur
50.	West Bengal	Sify Limited	Kolkata

VRS in VSNL

3597. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) has plans to introduce a Voluntary Retirement Scheme for its staff in the near future; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The final details of the scheme are yet to be worked out by VSNL. It is intimated that such scheme is not likely to be inferior to the scheme introduced while VSNL was holding PSU character. With the Government disinvesting its holding in VSNL, on 13th February, 2002, VSNL has become a non-government company, as such, detailed information of this nature is deemed confidential to any private sector company.

Payment of telephone bills in Karnataka

3598. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to Government's notice that in Karnataka, telephone bills above Rs. 1000/- would have to be paid through Demand Draft/Cheque; and

(b) if so, whether Government would take steps to allow payment of telephone bills at least upto Rs. 2500/- in cash in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) No, Sir. Telephone bills above Rs. 1000/- are not required to be paid through Cheques and Demand Drafts only except at collection centres managed by Bangalore Telecom District of Karnataka Telecom Circle of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited. The restriction has been imposed in Bangalore to reduce the waiting time of subscribers and curtail/ minimize the risk of handling huge cash in crowded cash counters.

(b) Payment of telephone bills is already allowed to be accepted in cash without restriction of amount at authorized Head Post Offices, Sub Post Offices, Branch Post Offices and the following branches of certain banks in Karnataka Telecom Circle :

1. Syndicate Bank
2. Indian Overseas Bank
3. State Bank of Mysore
4. Corporation Bank
5. Varada Grameena Bank
6. Lord Krishna Bank
7. Global Trust Bank
8. Karnataka Bank
9. IDBI
10. Central Bank